

CLAIMS

Please amend the presently pending claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) Transmission procedure comprising:

generating at least one data stream for transmission to at least one terminal, each of said stream or streams being made of stream-unitaccess units, wherein at least some of said stream-unitaccess units include at least one pointer that points to at least one other stream-unitaccess unit of said stream or of another stream that may have been received previously in the terminal, called a required previous unit, so that processing of said stream-unitaccess unit is not performed in said terminal if the required previous unit or units have not been received, and wherein said pointer is a dependency pointer, the dependency pointer being distinct from any sequence number said stream-unitaccess unit may have and being included in a dependency descriptor of said stream-unitaccess unit, said dependency descriptor describing said dependency pointer; and

transmitting the at least one data stream to the at least one terminal.

2. (Currently Amended) Transmission procedure according to claim 1, wherein the procedure includes the transmission of at least two data streams that are transmitted independently; one stream-unitaccess unit of a first stream pointing to at least one required previous unit of at least a second stream, in which said stream-unitaccess unit of the first stream includes enrichment data of the data contained in the second stream(s).

3. (Currently Amended) Transmission procedure according to claim 2, wherein said data streams correspond to different hierarchical levels of hierarchical encoding, the processing of a stream-unitaccess unit of a given hierarchical level is only performed if the stream-unitaccess units of the corresponding lower hierarchical levels have been received.

4. (Currently Amended) Transmission procedure according to claim 2, wherein this ~~stream unit~~access unit points to at least one previous unit defining a sequence of required previous units.

5. (Currently Amended) Transmission procedure according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said pointers allows recovering at least one required previous unit that includes the data allowing decoding and/or decrypting of the considered ~~stream unit~~access unit.

6. (Currently Amended) Transmission procedure according to claim 5, wherein said required previous unit or units include data that allows a terminal to decide whether the data of a considered ~~stream unit~~access unit must be decoded and/or decrypted, and then displayed after decoding.

7. (Currently Amended) Transmission procedure according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said pointers point to data that can be known by said terminal, so that the latter can decide on its capacity or incapacity to process the corresponding ~~stream unit~~access unit.

8. (Currently Amended) Transmission procedure according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said ~~stream unit~~access units includes at least one pointer pointing to at least one ~~stream unit~~access unit of said stream or another stream that may be subsequently received.

9. (Currently Amended) Transmission procedure according to claim 8, wherein said ~~stream unit~~access unit or units that can be subsequently received posses a marker that allows linking with said pointer(s).

10. (Currently Amended) Transmission procedure accordingly to claim 8, wherein the pointers of at least two similar ~~stream unit~~access units transmitted at distinct times point to the same ~~stream unit~~access unit that can be subsequently received.

11. (Currently Amended) Transmission procedure according to claim 1, wherein the procedure implements an indicator that specifies the role of the pointer(s) from among two of the roles belonging to the groups that include:

- designation of at least one previous ~~stream-unit~~access unit that must be decoded to allow taking into account the considered ~~stream-unit~~access unit;

- designation of at least one previous ~~stream-unit~~access unit that includes the data necessary for decoding and/or decrypting the considered ~~stream-unit~~access unit, and/or of a reference to a status of the protection system; and

- designation of at least one subsequent ~~stream-unit~~access unit.

12. (Currently Amended) Transmission procedure according to claim 11, wherein at least some of said ~~stream-unit~~access units include a dependency descriptor, which defines said role.

13. (Currently Amended) Transmission procedure according to claim 1, wherein at least some of said ~~stream-unit~~access units include a dependency marker that allows its identification as a required previous unit.

14. (Currently Amended) Transmission procedure according to claim 1, wherein at least some of said ~~stream-unit~~access units include an identification marker of said ~~stream-unit~~access unit in said stream.

15. (Currently Amended) Transmission procedure according to claim 1, wherein the procedure is implemented at the synchronization level so that no previous processing of a received ~~stream-unit~~access unit is necessary.

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

producing a stream of data, wherein the stream is made of ~~stream-unit~~access units transmitted independently one from the other, wherein at least some of said ~~stream-unit~~access units include at least one pointer that points to at least one other ~~stream-unit~~access unit of said stream or another stream that may have been received previously in a terminal, called a required previous unit, so that the processing of said ~~stream-unit~~access unit is not performed in said terminal if the required previous unit has not been received, and wherein said pointer is a dependency pointer, the dependency pointer being distinct from any sequence number said ~~stream-unit~~access unit may have and being included in a dependency descriptor of said ~~stream-unit~~access unit, said dependency descriptor describing said dependency pointer; and transmitting the stream to the at least one terminal.

18. (Currently Amended) A server for data designed to be transmitted to at least one terminal, in the form of at least one data stream made of ~~stream-unit~~access units transmitted independently ~~from~~ from each other, wherein at least some of said ~~stream-unit~~access units include at least one pointer that points to at least one other ~~stream-unit~~access unit of said stream or another stream that may have been received previously in a terminal, called a required previous unit, and wherein said pointer is a dependency pointer, the dependency pointer being distinct from any sequence number said ~~stream-unit~~access unit may have and being included in a dependency descriptor of said ~~stream-unit~~access unit, said dependency descriptor describing said dependency pointer.

19. (Currently Amended) A terminal that can receive at least one data stream made of ~~stream-unit~~access units transmitted independently from each other, wherein at least some of said ~~stream-unit~~access units include at least one pointer that points to at least one other ~~stream-unit~~access unit of said stream or another stream that may have been received previously in a terminal, called a required previous unit, and wherein said pointer is a dependency pointer, the dependency pointer being distinct from any sequence number said ~~stream-unit~~access unit may have and being included in a dependency descriptor of said ~~stream-unit~~access unit, said dependency descriptor describing

said dependency pointer.

20. (Currently Amended) A reception procedure comprising receiving at least one data stream made of ~~stream-unit~~access units, transmitted independently from each other, wherein at least some of these ~~stream-unit~~access units include at least one pointer that points to at least one other ~~stream-unit~~access unit of said stream or another stream that may have been received previously in a terminal, called required a previous unit, and wherein said pointer is a dependency pointer, the dependency pointer being distinct from any sequence number said ~~stream-unit~~access unit may have and being included in a dependency descriptor of said ~~stream-unit~~access unit, said dependency descriptor describing said dependency pointer.

21. (Currently Amended) Reception procedure according to claim 20, wherein at least one of said pointers points to at least one ~~stream-unit~~access unit of said stream or another stream that may have been received previously in a terminal, called required previous unit, and in that it includes the following stages:

- analysing said pointer(s) of a ~~stream-unit~~access unit; and
- processing said ~~stream-unit~~access unit if the required previous unit or units are received.

22. (Previously Presented) The transmission procedure according to claim 1 and comprising a step of using said transmission procedure in one of the applications belonging to the group consisting of:

- systematic broadcasting of a message before accessing a program selected by the user;
- conditional access at a specific quality level and/or at a specific option of a program; and
- interactive television.

23. (New) A processing method of at least one audio visual data stream, each of said stream or streams being made of stream units, wherein said method comprises the steps of:

- receiving said stream or streams, wherein at least some of said stream units include at least one pointer which designates at least one other stream unit of said stream or of another stream that may have been received previously in the terminal, called a dependency unit, said dependency unit being an access unit; and
- processing said stream or streams unless said at least one dependency unit has not been received.